

Community Outreach Subcommittee
MINUTES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Zoom

Community Outreach Subcommittee Present: Gail Hardy (Chair), Rashad Glass, Rachel Timm, Ana Mitchell, Eyvonne Parker-Bair

Staff: Ken Barone, Erica Escobar

I. Welcome & Introductions

Gail Hardy convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and asked members to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of the September 27, 2023, minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from September 27, 2023. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

III. General Discussion

a. Glastonbury Public Forum

Ken Barone briefed members on the upcoming Glastonbury Public Forum in collaboration with the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative. The program features a moderated discussion focusing on rights, with encouraged audience participation. Collaboration with the MLK community organization includes a press release and distributed flyers.

Ana Mitchell is actively promoting the Glastonbury Public Forum. She plans to visit the site, distribute posters in Glastonbury, and utilize email outreach. Her focus is on encouraging community participation, emphasizing that attendees can be from any community.

b. Public Outreach Activities

i. Information sharing through state agencies.

Ken Barone updated members on the importance of information sharing through state agencies, highlighting the DMV as a top priority due to public interactions related to driving. He suggested engaging other agencies such as the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, and the Department of Emergency Services for Public

Protection, and ensuring clear information on their websites about the Alvin Penn Law. Ken emphasized the significance of visual messages, like a link on agency homepages, to inform the public about their stance against racial profiling and provide details about the law and the program.

Gail mentioned the ongoing construction of their website but expressed intent to discuss it with CSA Griffin and reach out to the new DESPP commissioner. She plans to explain their objectives and possibly invite them to the next meeting for further discussion. Ken proposed drafting succinct language with Erica and Ana to clarify the content they want agencies to share.

Eyvonne Parker-Bair suggested using the ticker tape and screen in the DMV to educate people who visit. Parker-Bair proposed a segment titled "Did You Know?" that could share relevant information about the Alvin Penn Law, its history, and rights. She emphasized that this approach would be easy to implement and effective in reaching a wide audience within the department. Parker-Bair observed variations in DMV setups, indicating that larger branches have screens, while smaller part-time offices might not. She proposed an inventory of all 13 locations to identify those with screens and their features, committing to report back with the gathered information.

ii. 2024 public forum locations

Ken Barone provided an update on potential locations for the 2024 Public Forums. He addressed concerns raised by the Mohegan tribe about racial profiling, leading to the proposal of holding a forum in that area. Senator Osten expressed interest in collaboration. Stressing the need to engage with a community not previously on their radar, Ken suggested a forum on the Mohegan reservation, extending the conversation to surrounding towns. Recognizing the depth of the issues, Ken recommended a more involved Advisory Board presence.

Ken highlighted Guildford as a new area with identified disparities that need exploration. The Guildford-Branford region is relatively unexplored, making it a potential focus. Another department of interest is Berlin, along with Meriden and New Britain, which hasn't received attention for many years. Ken suggested considering a regional forum in the Meriden to New Britain area to address disparities possibly driven by activities in those communities. Ken also mentioned that Fairfield County, particularly the Westport area, is where most complaints are reported, making it a significant consideration.

iii. Other

Ana Mitchell proposed collaborating to educate young adults, like a driving class, providing essential information about police interactions and driving rules. Building on this idea, Ken suggested partnering with the DMV to feature program details on their website during registrations or license renewals. He recommended

creating a 2 to 5-minute video for driver's education programs, emphasizing rights and guiding viewers to the website. Additionally, Ken advised revisiting the idea of a 30-second commercial for local stations with a fresh approach and sought creative input from John, the video production team's overseer, in the next meeting. This collaborative effort aims to effectively educate and engage a broader audience. Notice to be included in past reports regarding CSP data quality.

Eyvonne Parker-Bair acknowledged the need to include information in the DMV, committing to address it. Regarding driving schools, she proposed integrating education from diverse perspectives into regulations, possibly requiring legislative changes. Parker-Bair emphasized the importance of including this education in the curriculum.

Ken expressed support for the idea and emphasized the need to understand the legislative path for incorporating educational content into driver's education courses. He also proposed exploring suitable locations on the DMV website to provide limited information about the Alvin Penn Law. The goal is to inform the public about Connecticut's anti-racial profiling law, where to file complaints, and where to find more information. Ken highlighted the importance of finding alternative ways to educate the public and suggested reaching out to other driving-related agencies for additional opportunities to disseminate information.

Eyvonne Parker-Bair mentioned having analytics for their website and acknowledged the importance of identifying frequently sought-after pages. She expressed the intention to address the issue internally and collaborate with their communication team to incorporate relevant information on the website.

- c. Notice to be included in past reports regarding CSP data quality.

Ken Barone provided an update on the concept of including a notice in past reports regarding CSP data quality. He shared a draft statement to be added to old reports, acknowledging the comprehensive audit conducted on racial profiling records submitted by the Connecticut State Police between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2021. The audit revealed a significant number of unsubstantiated records, indicating a high level of confidence in false or inaccurate submissions to the racial profiling database. The statement emphasized that this had a substantive and statistically significant impact on reports published before 2021. Ken noted the need for a concluding sentence expressing a note of caution and proposed adding a sentence with a link to the report for more information. He planned to share the draft for feedback and edits, with a formal consideration at the next meeting.

Rachel Timm expressed support for the statement, suggesting not to include a directive on what readers should do with the information. She recommended emphasizing the tie with the report's outcome and simply providing an editorial

line stating that more information can be found in the specific report detailing the impact.

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.